

## **Brunswick Preservation and Revitalization Committee**

**Meeting Notes - April 15, 2019**

**6:00PM - 7:00PM, Brunswick City Hall**

**Attending:** Kelly White, Brian Keller, Alan Miner, Mary Bellamy, Abbie Ricketts, Abby Ingram, Nathan Brown, Kimberly Golden Brandt

**Guests:** Elsa Haarstad and Andy St. John

### **Cumberland Preservation Program Review**

The committee discussed Cumberland's Preservation Program, citing elements of their Design Guidelines that could be of use in Brunswick. The committee liked Cumberland's focus on Community Development, Environmental Protection, Economic Benefits, and Energy Efficiency.

The group discussed Cumberland's economic hardship clause mentioning that Frederick City did not have specific language. Upon further review, the City does have a financial hardship clause:

"Upon the request of an applicant and with the submission of all required documentation by the applicant, the Commission will consider if financial hardship is justification for the approval of the demolition of a contributing resource. Financial hardship means that the resource or partial resource cannot be put to reasonable use without an expenditure that will exceed the value of the property upon completion of its rehabilitation. An applicant must provide substantial structural and financial information to demonstrate the presence of financial hardship. The requirements are outlined in the demolition application form."

### **Impacts Review**

The committee discussed the various impacts that a preservation program could have on the City government and residents.

**ACTION ITEM: The committee wants to learn more about St. Mary's Preservation Program, which has single property historic districts. Kelly has contacted Nell at MHT about this.**

### **Conservation District vs. Historic Preservation District**

The committee discussed the benefits and challenges associated with Conservation Districts and Historic Preservation Districts. The committee decided to recommend creation of a Conservation District to the Mayor and Council. A Conservation District will pose less of an administrative burden on the City than a Historic Preservation District and, if well-designed, can yield similar preservation benefits.

### **Deliverables Discussion/Presentation to the Mayor and Council**

The committee chair will present to the Mayor and Council on our work thus far. A draft outline of the presentation was discussed by the committee.

1. Summary of Key Points and Literature Reviewed
2. Action Items Review
  - a. Grant and Incentives Information
  - b. Historic District Resurvey
  - c. Boundary Establishment

- d. Design Guidelines
  - e. Conservation District Establishment
  - f. Demolition by Neglect Procedures
3. Next Steps
- a. Find ordinances to Edit/Follow
  - b. Establish documents and deliverables needed
  - c. Identify financial incentives

**ACTION ITEM: Kelly will share the draft presentation with the committee at next meeting.**

#### **Other Items**

1. Kim received various proposals for the Heritage Fund grant. The review committee for the grant applications meets on Monday, April 29.
2. The budget request to update the National Register nomination has been submitted to the Council.
3. The committee is interested in hosting Anthony Owens, an area contractor who does a lot of work on historic structures, at a future meeting.
4. **ACTION ITEM: Kim will send the Preservation Resources document to Kelly for sharing and discussion at a future meeting.**